

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 96-392-W/S - ORDER NO. 97-117

FEBRUARY 12, 1997

IN RE: Application of Hartwell Utilities, Inc. ) ORDER  
for Approval of an Increase in its Water ) DENYING  
and Sewer Rates and Charges for Customers ) WAIVERS  
of Chickasaw Point Subdivision, )  
Oconee County. )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Hartwell Utilities, Inc. (Hartwell or the Company) for a waiver of three requirements for an application for a rate increase. The Company has requested waivers of a Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) letter of approval, a bond requirement, and for a updated service area map.

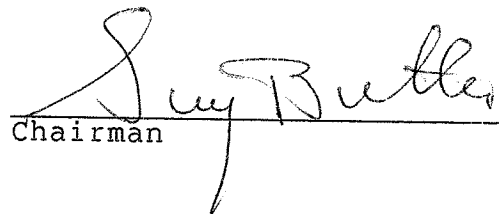
The Commission has received a letter with regard to DHEC's inspections of the Company's facilities. DHEC states that four of the last five operations and maintenance inspections by DHEC have been rated unsatisfactory. Further, DHEC relates that the contract operator for the facility has been dismissed and currently that there is no certified operator to conduct the required daily inspections and tests.

Considering this information, we do not believe that it is appropriate to waive the DHEC letter of approval requirement for application for rate increase. The Company should address its

service problems specifically. Further, considering this problem, the Commission does not believe that it is appropriate to waive the bond requirement or the updated service area map requirement either. Hartwell should address the problems outlined by the DHEC letter and be prepared to furnish the Commission with a DHEC letter of approval at the time that it makes application for a rate increase. Further, the Company should be prepared to proceed on the bond requirement and the updated service area map. The request for waiver is denied.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)